

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from both U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/246,373, (IGT P060X1/P-568CIP), filed on September 16, 2002, by Hedrick et al., and entitled "PLAYER TRACKING COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS IN A GAMING MACHINE," and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/921,489, (IGT1P060/P-568), filed on August 3, 2001, by Hedrick et al., and entitled "PLAYER TRACKING COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS IN A GAMING MACHINE," both of which ~~is~~are hereby incorporated by reference in ~~its~~their entirety for all purposes. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/246,373 is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/921,489.